

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE TORRANCE WATER COMMISSION**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Water Commission convened in a regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 15 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Commissioners Deemer, Hoffman\*, Rizzardi, See, Warner, White, and Chairperson Lew.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Public Works Director Beste,  
Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden,  
Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich, and  
Metropolitan Water District Director Wright.

\*Commissioner Hoffman arrived at 7:28 p.m.

**3. FLAG SALUTE**

Commissioner See led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

**MOTION:** Commissioner White moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Rizzardi seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5A. MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 20, 2007**

**MOTION:** Commissioner White moved for the approval of the September 20, 2007 Water Commission meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Warner seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC**

None.

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**8A. PRESENTATION BY CITY'S METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT DIRECTOR  
ON WATER SUPPLY SITUATION AND RELATED MATTERS**

Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Director Wright gave a power point presentation on the Southern California water supply. He provided information about the California water system and difficulties involved in bringing the State's main water supply through the Bay Delta as well as over major earthquake faults and a 2,000-foot high mountain to Southern California. He stated that two years ago he was confident that MWD had a reliable water supply for the next 15 to 20 years; however, he is now not sure about even next year.

He provided background about MWD's service area and the population and projected growth rate of Southern California. He discussed MWD's regional storage investments that include Diamond Valley Lake as well as where the imported supply comes from—the Los Angeles Aqueduct, the Colorado River Aqueduct, and the State Water Project. He noted that Los Angeles Aqueduct flows are the lowest on record, the Colorado River watershed is in the midst of an eight-year drought, Los Angeles Basin has the lowest precipitation on record, and fishery conflicts are threatening a 30% cutback from the Bay Delta.

He reported that the Bay Delta is the major source of water to irrigate millions of acres of farmland, supplies water for 25 million people, and is important to wildlife which includes a great variety of fish and bird species. He showed how the islands looked prior to farming and how at the present time the water level is higher than most of the islands. He stated that there are 1,600 miles of levees to keep fields and islands from being flooded and pointed out consequences in the event of a major earthquake.

He discussed possible theories for the decline in numbers of the Delta smelt and predicted a ruling of 30% reduction in pumping. He stated that climate change uncertainty and rising sea level were also concerns. He presented a long-term vision that would bring half of the water through the Delta and half around an isolated facility to Southern California, noting that it would take eight to ten years to complete. He stated that under this plan water could be moved and stored in Southern California when it is available so that it is not necessary to pump water when it is needed for environmental needs. He advised that the Governor supports surface reservoirs and that he expects a bond issue on the November 2008 ballot. He concluded his presentation by stressing the importance of conservation and developing local projects while problems are being resolved.

In response to Commissioner Warner's inquiry, he stated that the canal would take the same path as that proposed with the Peripheral Canal.

Responding to Commissioner Hoffman's inquiry, MWD Director Wright explained that 8% of surface water is lost to evaporation.

Public Works Director Beste provided information about Proposition 84 funding that has not been allocated yet, the importance of developing local storage projects, public education and outreach, and why rationing water is the wrong approach.

In response to an inquiry by Commissioner Rizzardi, MWD Director Wright stated that there is a proposal to float bags of water from the Columbia River but that it is not being seriously considered.

**9B. PRESENTATION BY STAFF REGARDING POSSIBLE WATER ALLOCATION PLAN**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich gave a power point presentation on a Preliminary Water Allocation Plan in the event that Metropolitan Water District (MWD) is unable to meet water demands in either 2008 or 2009. He provided background regarding the 20% emergency Allocation Plan set in place during the drought of 1991-1992. He reviewed where Southern California gets its water, noting that there was now no surplus allocation coming from the Colorado River and that two-thirds of imported water comes from the State Water Project.

He discussed MWD's resource actions that include implementing conservation projects, cutting replenishment and agricultural deliveries, maximizing groundwater production, acquiring additional supplies, and withdrawing from dry-year storage. He stated that, through the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), MWD has developed a range of supplies to help manage 2008 conditions. He added that the Goldsworthy Desalter was one example of a Groundwater Recovery Program that is being subsidized by MWD.

He reviewed the 1999 WSDM Allocation Principles that were established as guiding principles to provide water reliability. They take into account impact on retail customers and economy, reclamation/recycling, conservation, population and economic growth, investment in local resources, change or loss of local supply, participation in interruptible programs, and investment in MWD facilities.

In response to an inquiry by Commissioner White regarding a timeframe for developing new wells, Public Works Director Beste advised that in January or February 2008 the overall Capital Plan and budget would be presented. He discussed options that include seeking outside funding, buying water rights from other parties, working with the Water Replenishment District, redeveloping Well #6, and placing a bond measure on the ballot.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich described Objectives of the MWD Allocation Plan that include: creating a fair and equitable distribution to all member agencies, rewarding agencies that invested in local resources, acknowledging conservation and recycling demand hardening, considering the economic impacts to agencies heavily dependent on MWD water, and allowing for adjustments in gains or losses of local supplies. He conceded that Torrance Municipal Water (TMW) is heavily dependent on MWD water, with 88% of potable water demand and overall 69-70% imported from MWD. He briefly discussed major components of the preliminary Allocation Plan and efforts that have been made by TMW since 1990, noting the 13% reduction in imported water.

He reported that MWD is working with member agencies to finalize the Allocation Plan that will be considered for adoption by the MWD board in January 2008. He reiterated that the Allocation Plan was a contingency plan that is still a work in progress and that adoption does not mean implementation. He noted key outstanding items that include providing additional credit for conservation-based rate structures, for

implementing active conservation, and for partnering in conjunctive use programs, as well as looking at alternative approaches for extreme shortages.

He discussed some of the impacts on TMW during the 1991-92 allocation period and possible actions that TMW would need to take if the Allocation Plan is implemented: update and reactivate the City's Drought Ordinance, staged implementation plan in accordance with severity of drought in 5% stages, temporary drought surcharge to compensate for lost revenue, and water use prohibitions based on the drought stage. He concluded his presentation with next steps that include updating and refining the City's Drought Plan/Ordinance, supporting alternatives to imposing allocation, developing a contingency plan to address allocation state, and accelerating community outreach to prepare the community for possible allocation.

MWD Director Wright pointed out that a reliable supply of reclaimed water is the Los Angeles sewer.

Public Works Director Beste added that establishment of a rate stabilization fund was an important long-term goal. He pointed out that TMW would have concentrated on developing more local resources if it had not been receiving the surplus from the Colorado River.

Chairperson Lew stressed the importance of changing the mindset of the public from merely conservation to sustainability and lifestyle change.

#### **9. WEST BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION REPORT**

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reported that at the November 6, 2007 West Basin Water Association meeting the Water Master distributed its Annual Report for the last fiscal year. He stated that West Basin Municipal Water District announced the passing of former director Larry Gallagher and discussed the drought Allocation Plan.

He reported that Water Replenishment District (WRD) was working with the Department of Public Health to develop 100% usage of recycled water at the recharged barriers. He stated that West Basin Water Association reported that conjunctive use talks are progressing and that efforts are being made to expand use of recycled water in local refineries.

He reported that at the November 14, 2007 quarterly dinner meeting MWD gave a presentation on the water shortage management plan.

#### **10. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reported a decrease in recycled water sales due to a turn around project at Exxon-Mobil Refinery and noted that there were a total of four main breaks in October 2007.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Warner moved to accept and file the Monthly Department Report. Commissioner Hoffman seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**11. METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

MWD Director Wright reported that he attended a National Water Resources Association conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico last week where it was discussed that the western United States is the fastest growing area in the country but that the Federal Government is not funding any water projects there.

**12. ORALS**

**12A.** Commissioner White announced a League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County program on the impending water crisis on January 26, 2008 in the City of Burbank.

**12B.** Commissioner Hoffman announced his decision to not seek another term on the Water Commission but stated that he would like to hear the outcome of his proposal to expand the Water Commission's purview before he leaves.

**12C.** Commissioner Rizzardi thanked staff for their informative presentations.

**12D.** Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden brought up the possibility of rescheduling the December 20, 2007 Commission meeting.

**12E.** Chairperson Lew stressed the need for policy makers to focus beyond conservation measures and more on sustainable growth.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 9:17 p.m., Commissioner Warner moved to adjourn the meeting to December 20, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission meeting room. Commissioner Hoffman seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Lew so ordered.

Approved as Amended December 20, 2007 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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